

Message Text

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TAGS PFOR CA FR

SUBJ PARIS-OTTAWA-QUEBEC: MCGILL PROFESSOR SAYS

TRUDEAU NOW SPEAKS FOR ALL CANADIANS

REF OTTAWA 3042

1. THE TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL PUBLISHED, SEPTEMBER 26,
THE FOLLOWING STORY BY ITS EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT LEO RYAN,
SUMMARIZING AN ARTICLE BY MCGILL UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
JEAN ETHIER-BLAIS WHICH APPEARED IN THIS WEEK'S LES NOUVELLES
LIBBERAIRES:

BEGIN TEXT: PARIS - FOLLOWING THE DECLINE OF GAULLISM AND
NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN QUEBEC-OTTAWA RELATIONS, PRIME MINISTER
PIERRE TRUDEAU IS COMING AS "THE BIG VICTOR" ON HIS OFFICIAL
VISIT TO PARIS NEXT MONTH, SAYS WELL-KNOWN FRENCH CANADIAN
AUTHOR AND UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR JEAN ETHIER-BLAIS IN AN
OUTSPOKEN COMMENTARY IN A LEADING PARIS LITERARY PUBLICATION.

WRITING IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF LES NOUVELLES
LITTERAIRES, THE PROFESSOR OF FRENCH LITERATURE AT
MCGILL UNIVERSITY IN MONTREAL DID NOT MINCE HIS WORDS
WHEN REFERRING TO RECENT SHIFTS IN POLITICAL TRENDS
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IN CANADA, TO THE DETERIORATION OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

IN QUEBEC, OR TO THE ATTITUDE OF QUEBEC YOUTH.

IN PROF. ETHIER-BLAIS'S OPINION, MR TRUDEAU HAS
"EVERYTHING TO PLEASE FRENCH LEADERS: ABSOLUTE POWER,
A LOVE FOR FRANCE, THE DIRECTION OF A RICH COUNTRY, A
CERTAIN DESIRE FOR APPEASMENT."

PROF. ETHIER-BLAIS WENT ON TO SAY THAT "ONE SHOULD
NOT DELUDE ONESELF. PIERRE TRUDEAU IS THE LEADER OF A
PARTY WHICH HOLDS THE LEVERS OF POWER IN QUEBEC AS IN
OTTAWA." ANY CONTINUED STRUGGLES BETWEEN FEDERAL AND
PROVINCIAL POLITICS WERE "ONLY FOR THE GALLERY."

"THE INTERESTS ARE THE SAME, AS ARE THE VOTERS."
QUEBECKERS VOTING FOR ROBERT BOURASSA IN QUEBEC AND MR
TRUDEAU IN OTTAWA IN FACT ACCEPTED THE SHARING OF THEIR
CULTURAL WORLD. "THERE WAS UNDER (QUEBEC PREMIER)
DANIEL JOHNSON AND (FRENCH PRESIDENT) CHARLES DE GAULLE
THE EMBRYO OF A FRENCH STATE IN NORTH AMERICA. FOR THE
MOMENT, IT'S FINISHED."

IN A KEY PHRASE, PROF. ETHIER-BLAIS SAID THAT "THE
PRIME MINISTER OF QUEBEC HAS RE-BECOME A LEUD." THE
RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEFINES
A LEUD AS A FEUDAL VASSAL).

"THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CAN ONLY HAVE ENORMOUS
CONSEQUENCES ON FRENCH CULTURAL POLICY. FRANCE HAS TWO
INTERLOCUTORS IN CANADA, EACH ONE AS VALID AS THE OTHER.
ONE CAN REGRET IT. THIS REGRET CAN CHANGE NOTHING IN
THE AFFAIR."

PROF. ETHIER-BLAIS FEELS THAT QUEBEC WILL CONTINUE
TO RECEIVE THE BULK OF FRANCE'S CULTURAL AID. BUT
QUEBEC'S POLICY "MUST HENCEFORTH COINCIDE WITH THE
GENERAL INTERESTS OF THE CANADIAN MAJORITY. THE PRIVILEGED
PARTNER IS ALREADY NO LONGER THE SAME." END TEXT.
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